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incorporated herein by reference; additionally, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/145,976, filed July 29, 1999, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Page 4, lines 7-11, amend the paragraph, as follows:

B2  
These resins may be either in the form of two components or in the precondensed form, while preferred methylene donors include hexamethoxymethylmelamine (HMMM) or hexamethylenetetramine (HMT); the Applicant has found, however, that other methylene donors and other types of hardening resins may be used.

Page 4, line 18, amend the section heading, as follows:

B3  
**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS**

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend claims 31-33, 35, 44, 54, and 58, as follows:

B4  
31. (once amended) A high performance tyre, comprising:

a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;

a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass;

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B4  
a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt; and

a tread band comprising an underlayer and an external layer;

wherein a hardness of the underlayer does not vary by more than 5 International Rubber Hardness Degrees (IRHD) over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

32. (once amended) The tyre of claim 31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer does not vary or varies by less than 5 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

33. (once amended) The tyre of claim 31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer does not vary by more than 1 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

B5  
35. (once amended) The tyre of claim 31, wherein the hardness of the underlayer is greater than 85 IRHD at 100°C.

B6  
44. (once amended) The tyre of claim 43, wherein the methylene donors are hexamethoxymethylmelamine (HMMM) or hexamethylenetetramine (HMT).

B7  
54. (once amended) A high performance tyre, comprising:  
a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;  
a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in a layer and crossed with respect to those of the adjacent layer, applied circumferentially on the carcass;

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B7  
a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt; and

a tread band comprising an underlayer and an external layer;

wherein the underlayer has an elastic modulus which remains substantially constant between 70°C and 100°C, and

wherein the underlayer has a hardness that does not vary by more than 5 IRHD over a temperature range between 70°C and 100°C.

B8  
58. (once amended) A method for improving behaviour at high speeds of a high-performance tyre, the tyre comprising:

a carcass provided with at least one carcass ply;

a belt comprising two or more layers of reinforcing cords parallel to each other in

a layer and crossed with respect to those of an adjacent layer, applied

circumferentially on the carcass; and

a radially-external layer of circumferentially-oriented reinforcing cords applied on the belt;

the method comprising:

mounting on a periphery of the radially-external layer a tread band comprising an

underlayer and an external layer;

wherein the underlayer comprises a thermostable compound, and

wherein a hardness of the thermostable compound does not vary by more than 5 IRHD over a temperature range between 23°C and 100°C.

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